

STRAIGHT AND NARROW SILHOUETTE CASTS ITS SHADOW
By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD.
THE sooner we get used to the straight and narrow silhouette the better. It is on its way. The advance guard is here.
As early as last spring one began to see its shadow cast before, and the early autumn collections, showing all models approximately straight of line, showed a few very narrow as well as scant. The mode has gathered weight in snub fashion, and now, with the folk most concerned in the making of women's clothes deciding wisely and patriotically to economize on the amount of fabric put into those clothes, to cut out all superfluous material and hold to straight, scant lines, the silhouette of the coming spring is a foregone conclusion.
The tailored and semi-tailored suits will naturally be more affected by the new ruling than will any other department of dress. The motive back of the concerted action among manufacturers

to back loyally all the efforts made toward aiding the Government and the army along this line of national modes.
The models made during the past few months show on the whole a narrowing of lines and a more general acceptance of silk and velvet than usual; but most of the frocks, while comparatively straight, are full; and if there is a very narrow underskirt there is probably a full tunic to offset it.
As to the coats, the wool coats, material has been used very lavishly in most of them. Since good, woolen stuffs are expensive the coats are correspondingly high in price, but no one can deny that they are handsome and luxuriously comfortable.
The tale of the winter coat is told, but presumably the spring coat will be a narrower, scantier garment and the spring suit and frock will be not only straight of line but shorn of much of their fulness.
Just how far the designers will go in their efforts and just how they will reconcile grace with scantiness remains to be seen.
Even now occasional models show

Tailored Suits Most Affected by Style That Economizes on Cloth and Cuts Down Non-Essentials—Satin Is Fast Supplanting Wool and Chiffon and Crepe Are Being Freely Used—Bargains in Exclusive Models

a ruthless elimination of fold and flare and plait. They are extreme, too extreme for successful wearing by the average woman, but they show which way the current is drifting.
There is a beautiful wool velour, for example, whose long coat is so straight and narrow and uncompromisingly devoid of surplus cloth that on a woman of even moderately assertive curves it would be quite impossible. It buttons from the neck to waist, and below that the fronts part gradually, as though even on the slimmest of figures they could not continue their pipestem career.
Between the parting coat fronts appears a glimpse of a skirt still narrower than the coat, banded in brown fur at the knees, with lines of cording in the cloth running down from the fur band to the skirt bottom, across

the front. The coat is banded in numerous rows of this cording around the bottom and on the sleeves and has a high turndown collar and cuffs of fur.
On the mannequin who displayed it the costume was enormously chic, but the designers must be kinder than this to the ordinary woman.
A very good coat that is straight and scant without being trying in line or uncomfortable is the green velour of our sketch with its front crossing over far to the left side, its uneven line at bottom and its trimming of beaver. It is clingingly straight, without looking at all blocked out, and the unusual manner in which the fur is applied to the front softens and breaks the straight and narrow lines.
One of the handsome if rather extreme satin suit models of the winter

instance, not too demure, but it is attractive and sure to be desirable throughout this season, and it is in the handsome type of slightly extreme model that one finds the best bargains. Not that they are sold cheap. Very handsome stuffs never drop to very low prices, but the difference between their original price and their sale price is greater in proportion than the difference between the two prices in a cheaper frock.
The small and exclusive shops cannot afford to keep models over. They haven't storage room and their clientele demands the latest thing. So the goods are marked down drastically and it is well worth one's while to browse around at the sales which all of these houses are advertising. There's always the chance of getting a good thing at an advantageous price, a thing smart now and of materials handsome enough to lend themselves to making over later on.
Nets, chiffons, laces and silks are being made much of in preparation of Southern models, which are but the advance guard of spring models and there are many lovely things in cottons, both heavy and sheer, though good cottons promise to be higher in price. Whether the craze for gingham, which was one of last summer's surprises, will find an echo in next summer's models no one seems to know, but certain manufacturers so clearly demonstrated the attractive possibilities of this fabric and its wearing qualities are so admirable that it will probably find considerable favor even though it will not be the chic thing it was.
The manufacturers of gingham have done their best to keep the sun shining and the hawking going by turning out charming colorings and designs and the new gingham seems pretty enough to keep the vogue of the material alive.
Much is being done with the sports silks for Southern wear, and attractive new weaves and colorings have been brought out in these lustrous part silk stuffs. Wool jerseys and silk jerseys are with us again also, and despite the effort to move wool, there are many good looking sports coats of the velvet surfaced wools in soft, warm colorings, with hats of the cloth to match.
But all this belongs to coming time. We've hardly begun to wear our winter clothes yet, and the woman who must begin thinking of a Southern wardrobe is always, after all, exceptional—will, perhaps, be more the exception than usual this winter.
It was a well known Frenchman who said the other night at dinner: "American women are better dressed than I've ever seen them. They are always charming, attractive, but I have felt before that they were too



A suit of biscuit velour with kolinsky, one of black satin with gray fox, a green velour coat with beaver, a frock of velvet striped blue chiffon and one of brown velvet.

is the conserving of the inadequate wool supply for the uses of the army, and it is the woolen suit or frock that must needs be cut down to utmost limits of grace and comfort, but since a silhouette is a pervasive thing, and when a mode is launched it cannot well be confined to one province of dress, the silhouette-elect for wool will find general acceptance.
Moreover, while the saving in wool is a crucial necessity, all saving is desirable. The less work given to non-essentials the more workers will be free to devote themselves to essentials, and workers are needed for vital effort.
So women will have a chance to show their good sense even in the buying of a new frock and it is to be hoped that they will not seize upon the excuse of patriotic saving to justify leaping to absurd extremes. A vivid memory of the hobble skirt gives one pause in this eager movement toward scant dress patterns, and if the cases of conservation runs to over short skirts, over low bodices and over short sleeves in excess of zeal there will be reason for lamentation.
By all means let us have straight, moderately narrow, simple, sensible clothes during these war times and forget all radical freakish extremes and useless extravagance.
And by all means let us use wool only where we cannot dispense with it. Good silk and good velvet are expensive things. So is wool fabric of the smartest sort, but one can buy a woolen frock or suit that will look well and give sturdy service for much less than one must pay for a silk frock or suit that would fill the same place, and a woolen wardrobe isn't the easy thing to plan that some enthusiasts would have one believe it to be.
However, wool can be cut out of one's calculations and it is high time women were realizing their duty in the matter.
Old woolen suits and frocks can be remodelled, furnished up in place of buy a new one to take their place. Silk combined with the old material, if something must be combined with it, will save just so much wool for the army. If new frocks and suits are really necessary let them make use of silk to any extent possible.
Luckily the season of winter manufacturing and buying is practically over. Models for the Southern trade are on view and spring models are in hand. It will be easier to conserve wool in connection with spring and summer models than at any other season and apparently the best of the trade is bending its efforts honestly and willingly toward that end. It will be up to the women to show their sympathy and appreciation and

FUR COATS REMODELLED INTO CHARMING GARMENTS

THERE was a time when a fur coat was a fur coat. Everybody's seal or Persian lamb coat looked much like every other body's and was built up with a view to giving many years of service without alteration.
But we've changed all that. Practical and thrifty ways may come back to us. We may find them necessary and a relearning of those ways may be one of the beneficial by-products of a war that seems so largely waste, but the clothes tendency for years past has been toward fostering whim and fad even at extravagant cost, and so we have learned to look upon furs as natural exponents of fashion's fickleness.
Fur fashions change as radically and almost as rapidly as do frock fashions, and though truly beautiful pelts, such as sable, are handsome enough and obviously expensive enough to satisfy the pride of the average woman without constant altering of lines, the less expensive furs are continually being remodelled or laid aside.
This winter the opportunities for successful remodelling of an ordinary fur coat are rather better than usual. To be sure the smartest and most luxurious of the long fur coats are

ample, not to say voluminous, and have huge collars that call for a surprising amount of fur, but there is to be seen here and there among the modish things a fur coat that gives a very straight and narrow effect, loose of course, comfortable, but not falling in soft straight full folds and with only a slight rippling fulness below the hips.
One such coat, in seal, is perfectly straight and loosely narrow from collar to a point half way between hip and knee. At that point it is joined by a deep straight band, not flaring at all but set on the body of the coat just a trifle full, so that, though falling in straight lines it gives width for comfortable movement. One sees this same arrangement in coats of fabric and fur, the lower section being of the fur, and in combination of two furs, and it offers an easy solution for the making over of the old coat.
And then there are the short fur coats, which are making decided headway as the season advances, especially among the youthful and slender contingent. Some of these short models call for a good deal of fur, being quite full, though straight, loosely belted and largely collared; but even at worst, a short full coat cannot use up as many skins as a long full coat, and there are short models that are not very full, loose but rather

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GENERAL NOTES OF PERSONS PROMINENT IN SOCIETY

Continued from Second Page.
Wasserman, Mrs. Cassius Way, Miss Marion H. Zabriskie, Mrs. Alfred Pincus and Mrs. L. N. Alexander.
Under the auspices of the New York Browning Society a special performance of Browning's "Pippa Passes" will be given for the benefit of the Italian Ambulance Fund on Friday, January 11, at 2:30 P. M., at the Cort Theatre. Arthur Forrest will take the part of Sebald, Mrs. Frances Carter that of Offine and Albert Gullen that of Messinger. The entire performance will be under the direction of Mrs. Frances Carter.
New York, Mrs. Charles E. Mills presented, held their first dance and card party at the Hotel Astor Friday evening. Mrs. Henry Hawkins and Mrs. M. Schaus were the chairmen. Mrs. H. D. Cook had charge of the card room. Mrs. Frances Warner, donated knitting bags for prizes. Through the arrangement of a number of boys from the aviation camp at Bay Shore were invited as guests of the club.
President's Day will be observed by the New York Fresh Air Fund for Adult

and Elderly People, on Tuesday, with a reception and tea at the home of its president, Mrs. Edward W. Hooker, 532 Riverside Drive. More than fifty presidents have been invited. A special guest of honor will be Mrs. A. H. Stearns, who is prominent in club work in Chicago. Mrs. Fred M. Williams and Mrs. T. W. G. Cook will preside at the tea tables.
The third card party of the series for the emergency fund of the club will be held on Wednesday at 3 P. M. at the residence of Mrs. P. M. Williams, 301 West 108th street.
The Beethoven Society, Mme. Alda Tanini-Tagliavini, president, had an afternoon musicale yesterday in the grand ballroom of the Plaza. A reception preceded the musicale and dancing followed. Mrs. James Daniel Mortimer, honorary president of the society and chairman of music, presented the artists, Miss Grace Whistler, contralto; Miss Alice Barbee, soprano, and Sergei Kotlarek, violinist.
New members of the society include James, George Ashwell, Ann Boyie, Oliver W. Bowen, John Cleary, J. Chaplin, George E. Carhart, W. E. D. Forrest, C. H. Gould, George Heare,

A. Humphrey, S. F. Kingston, A. Kubler, Mrs. Lovett, James Moran, E. McManus, J. P. Nieman, J. Stewart, J. B. Martin, E. Schroth, E. Otis Wade, M. Weiss, H. M. Stiel, W. W. Fortmeyer and D. E. Rice, Countess J. de Rohan, Mme. Rother, the Misses Alma Backman, H. Hanley, Ciel Kraut, P. Meredith, Ella Merowitz, Leonie Robinson, Martha Burkhardt and Nellie H. Hausse and Messrs. Seymour Bulkeley, Joseph Watson, Alberto Moreno and T. L. McConchil.
The Hill Critter Society, Mrs. Leonard L. Hill, president, entertained at luncheon at the Hotel Plaza on last Friday. Arthur Williams took the members that winning the war tested with America and urged each woman present to aid in winning it by conserving food. Many flags of the allied nations, decked the walls of the foyer to the ballroom where Mrs. Hill received the members and their guests. On each luncheon table were small silver flags of the Allies. The group of women responsible for the success of the luncheon, under the leadership of Mrs. George W. Howe, chairman, were Mrs. C. A. Fullerton, Mrs. Addison Allen, Mrs. A. P. Gardner, Mrs. Charles A. Baker,

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